

DECEMBER 1933



RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD



(Courtesy of INLAND PRINTER)

A THRILLER OF THE OLD DAYS GONE BY.

The above is a reproduction of the De Witt's Nightshade Series, a yellowback of the 1860's. It is a four color wood cut of the first No. of Nightshade. (De Witt's Nightshade Series, article inside.)

VOLUME THREE

NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE



## PLUCK & LUCK

By CHARLES BRAGIN

The great popularity of this library among collectors is well deserved, for it contains no less than 812 of the finest "dime novel" stories reprinted from Tousey's serial story papers — *Boys of New York, Young Men of America, Golden Weekly, Happy Days, etc.*

This weekly is really a continuation of Tousey's great *Wide Awake Library*, dressed up in colored covers, with the same great variety in story. In fact, a great many stories were reprinted from the *Wide Awake Library*.

The first few hundred issues of *Pluck & Luck* contain the best stories — for here we find some of the most thrilling tales by F. W. Doug-hty, published under the pen names of Allyn Draper, Howard Austin, Richard Montgomery, Allan Arnold, J. C. Merritt. "The Red Leather Bag No. 170 P & L, is the only story in this weekly with Old King Brady as its hero.

Here we have also many reprints of the Jack Wright stories from the *Boys Star Library* — always in demand, owing to the great scarcity of the original Library.

There are no original stories in *Pluck & Luck*. All are reprints of Tousey tales, mostly of the vintage of eighties and nineties, and here lies their chief charm. They have all the lurid tang of the old time dime novel, and little of the namby-pamby "reformed" dime novel of the twentieth century.

As is well known, beginning with No. 451, Tousey started to reprint the earlier stories. But not all the issues were reprinted. Actually from No. 451 to 874 of PLUCK & LUCK,

only 62 of the stories were reprints. All the others were new stories, altho like the earlier issues, the tales were reprints from the old Tousey story papers.

New illustrations were made for these 62 reprints — altho well drawn, they lacked the peculiar charm of the early PLUCK & LUCK pictures.

For example, let us take Bushwhacker Ben. The reprint, No. 531, has an excellent illustration. In the background, we see an old man under a tree, with a halter around his neck. In the foreground, a young lady, evidently daughter of the old man, is pleading with a young Union soldier, evidently our hero. A well drawn illustration, not without merit and action.

But how tame and insipid compared with the illustration on the original issue, No. 31 P & L. Here we have our hero mounted on a fiery steed, reins held between clinched teeth, with gun in each hand flashing deadly missiles into enemy's ranks through which our hero is dashing, with the heroine seated in back of him, the young lady also performing with a six shooter in the most approved dime novel style.

True, the steed looks like something taken bodily from a merry-go-round. The characters all, with their staring eyes, look like wax figures, or stuffed effigies. The usual crudity of the early Tousey color cover illustrations—but with a unique charm and interest entirely lacking in the later illustrations.

From No. 875 onwards, all the issues became reprints, and with the old time illustrations being used, but the printing was done in two colors only. The originals were executed in three colors, and therefore are far



superior. However, because of the original illustrations being used, we consider these reprints worth while collecting, particularly when the early issues cannot be had.

Later on, when Wolff took over the Tousey business, he began to reprint the weekly in smaller size, and made it worthless — with wretched printing, poor illustrations, and even cutting down the stories. Collectors wisely shun these Wolff reprints — they have no place in any collection.

—:o:—

### THE DIME NOVEL BY RALPH F. ADIMARE

Ballou - the Father of the Dime Novel  
Part 4

Let us note carefully that the best adventure stories in the world are pure unalloyed fictions. I think that no great adventure novel or romantic story was ever written by a soldier or adventurer or Gallahad. Col. Prentiss Ingraham, son of J. H., Ned Buntline and Captain Mayne Reid, went thru peril after disaster were shot, one nearly hanged by a mob, in wars and so on, yet neither one ever wrote so magnificent a tale as, say Deadwood Dick, The Road Agent by Edward L. Wheeler (who never went further west than Chicago) Old King Brady and The Red Leather Bag by Francis W. Doughty (who never had a thrilling adventure in his life) or Jack Harkaway Around the World by Bracebridge Hemyng (who studied the miserable poor of London's streets for a thrill as well as a book) or Frank Merriwell by W. Gilbert Patten (who never thoroly explored the West and certainly never went thru one deadly escapade) How can we account for this? Anyway this is definite, truth kills romance, realism should be avoided in any adven-

ture story otherwise something beautiful is lost.

Ballou ends his story which we have critisized rather severely with the following choice sentence, "Our last three tales have been of the sea . . . . . our next may be in a new field but in the meantime, gentle reader, we beg leave to kiss your hand" Ah Mr. Ballou if only you had put all your love into your novel and not your business acumen!

In the following list we give a bibliography of all published works by Maturin Murray Ballou (Lieutenant Murray) (1820-1895) and date when first issued. Where place of publication is not mentioned, Boston is meant. L. M. refer to his Pseudonym titles without this mark were published under his own name.

Red Rupert, The American Buccaneer, by L. M. 1845 paper.

Fanny Campbell, The Female Pirate Captain, by L. M. 1845, paper.

The Naval Officer, or The Pirates Cave, by L. M. 1846. paper.

The Child of the Sea, or The Smuggler of Colonial Times together with The Love Test, by L. M. 1846, paper.

The Spanish Musketeer, by L. M. 1847, paper.

The Gipsej, or The Robbers of Naples, by L. M. 1847, paper.

The Adventurers or The Wreck in The Indian Ocean, by L. M. 1848, paper.

The Circassian Slave, June 1851 by L. M. paper.

The Heart's Secret, or The Fortunes of a Soldier, by L. M. 1852 paper.

Biography of Reverend Hosea Ballou, 1852, cloth.

History of Cuba. 1854, cloth



The Turkish Spies; A True History of the Russo-Turkish War by L. M. Baltimore 1855 paper. The Greek Adventurer, or The Soldier and The Spy, by L. M. 1856 paper.

The Arkansas Ranger or Dingle The Backwoodsman, by L. M. 1857, paper.

The Gipsy's Daughter or The Fortunes of a Spanish Cavalier by L. M. 1858 paper.

Miralda or the Justice of Tacon (a play) 1858 paper.

The Cabin Boy; Life on The Wing, by L. M. 1858 paper.

The Magician of Naples or Love & Necromancy by L. M. 1858 paper.

The Turkish Slave or the Dumb Dwarf of Constantinople by L. M. 1859 paper.

The Sea Lark or the Quadroon of Louisiana by L. M. 1859 paper  
Roderick the Rover or the Spirit of the Wave by L. M. 1859 paper  
The Duke's Prize or the Bravo's Mate by L. M. N. Y. 1871 paper  
(A reprint, first edition not known)

A Treasury of Thought, an Encyclopedia of Quotations edited by Ballou 1875 cloth.

Notable Thoughts About Women edited by Ballou 1882 cloth  
Pearls of Thought, edited by Ballou 1884 cloth.

Due West or Round the World in Ten Months 1884 cloth.

Due South or Cuba, Past and Present 1885 cloth.

Edge-Tools of Speech, edited by Ballou 1886 cloth.

Due North or Glimpses of Scandinavia and Russia 1887 cloth.  
Genius in Sunshine and Shadow 1887 cloth.

Under the Southern Cross or Travels in Australasia 1888 cloth

The New Eldorado. A Summer Journey in Alaska 1889 cloth

Footprints of Travel or Journeys in Many Lands 1889 cloth.

The Dog Detective and His Young Master by L. M., N. Y. 1889 paper.

Mezzini, The Brigand of The Mountains by L. M., N. Y. 1889 paper. Reprint, no trace of first edition.

Aztec Land 1890 cloth.

Equatorial Africa 1892 cloth.

The Story of Malta 1893 cloth.

The Pearl of India 1894 cloth.

The following are mentioned in contemporary papers but no other record of them exists;

Life Work of Hosea Ballou.

The Outlaw or The Robbers of the Appennines.

Ballou must have published some other books but if so, they are now lost as no record exists of some years where there is a lapse. In many instances Ballou's tales were taken over by other firms and the title changed; as for instance, "The Naval Officer" is grabbed by E. H. Long & Co. and made into a dime novel, Captain Lovell, The Sea Lark is next called The Sea Witch, Fanny Campbell is disguised as the Pirate Queen, The Heart's Secret comes out again as the Fortunes of a Soldier and so on.

From 1862 to 1870 he seems to have scarcely written a line. Then in this year he established the *Boston Globe* which he relinquished in July 1873. He simply could not stay out of the publishing field. However this was his last venture in that line. Except for a little lecturing he began a systematic search for something lacking in his own soul, so he travelled



all over the world. A dozen travel books were the fruits of these wanderings.

Time will tell whether this man deserves the eponyms we have heaped upon him. But if such windbags as James Gordon Bennett, Horace Greeley, Pulitzer, can be credited with all the ballyhoo thrust upon them certainly Ballou deserves the whole cake for he developed an American spirit in the publishing field of cheap books and magazines at a time when all publishers banged their doors on the nose of the American artists.

The End.

—:o:—

## TALKED ABOUT PEOPLE

Sinclair Tousey

Chapter 2

In his sixteenth year he left this farmer. He did not have a cent in his pocket, but he started off in the direction of Connecticut, which was more than one hundred miles distant. During three days he tramped on, when hungry, asking for bread, and when night came, sleeping as best he could. On the third day, worn out, footsore and sick, he laid down by the roadside, and taxed beyond his powers, he fell fast asleep. Here he was found by a farmer, who was driving along with his wife. The poor boy was awakened, taken into the wagon, and finally forwarded by the kind hearted farmer to Danbury. This brought the young adventurer within ten miles of his destination at New-town. After this he engaged with a farmer for a short time and then apprenticed himself to a carpenter. Nothing could induce him to be idle. It was not only for bread, but he was naturally industrious. Some of his relatives now advised him to come

to New York, and seek employment, which he did, with the consent of his then employer. Having arrived in the city, he obtained a situation as clerk in a grocery store. Here he remained, working with his accustomed energy, till 1832, when he fell ill of the cholera. On his partial recovery he went to Saybrook, Conn., and later engaged himself to a farmer near New London. He worked during the summer for nine dollars a month, and then invested the entire sum in quinces to sell in the New York market. He sold them here himself at such a profit that he more than doubled his capital. Then he looked about for some new field of exertion, and found it as a carrier on Major Noah's Evening Star Newspaper. In the morning he carried a Democratic newspaper, called the Jeffersonian, published by Casper C. Child's. This was the first connection of Mr. Tousey with news business, which by his later enterprise has been made so extensive and profitable. He also collected the letters from over sixty boxes, than called sub-post-offices, and owned by private parties. He was a rapid walker, and went his rounds, both with his papers and letters, with a speed and punctuality which made him very popular. He gave up these duties to go to New Haven as the agent of the New York Transcript, a penny paper of considerable ability. The scheme was not a success, though he worked very hard to obtain a circulation for the paper. On his return to New York the publisher of the Sun, then also a penny paper, induced him to proceed to Philadelphia to facilitate the circulation of that journal. Here again his plan failed.

During his stay in Philadelphia he limited his expenses to ten cents a

day for food, and six cents a night for lodgings, which he obtained in a cheap lodging-house on the river side. He talked and he worked and he pinched, but he could not induce the Philadelphians to take a New York penny paper. Returning to New York he employed himself on the Herald, then a penny paper, and was about the first carrier it had for the lower part of the city. At that time the carrier's received their papers at the offices of the newspapers, and they were held accountable there for the prompt and regular delivery of the same.

Mr. Tousey also filled up his spare time in the afternoon by collecting the advertising bills of the Herald. He likewise delivered in Brooklyn and Jersey City, the American reprints of the English Quarterlies and "Blackwoods Magazine". An humble, industrious and cheerful-minded man he earned only a mere living, but he was watchful for an opportunity of greater effort. The proprietor of a popular medicine had observed the ability of Mr. Tousey, and in 1836, induced him to enter his service. He appointed him general agent for all the states on the borders of the Mississippi. Mr. Tousey proceeded to Louisville, Ky., at his own cost, and established depots for the sale of the medicine in the principal cities, and local agents in the smaller towns. He traveled much on horseback. For several years he was energetically engaged in this agency. During the same time he published the Louisville Daily Times, the first penny paper ever issued west of the Alleghany mountains.

(To be continued)

Merry



Xmas

## LINES TO A CARTOON

Cartoon is entitled,

### "WHY MOTHERS GET GRAY"

The young hopeful of the household—the promising scion of the family tree is seen ensconced in the best living room chair, with legs propped up against the chair arm at an undignified angle, his body twisted like a rambling grapevine; and he holds a penny dreadful or some such piece of juvenile literature in his hand. Mother appears and stands startled and dumfounded at his precarious position.

With shoes on the floor and

With hand in his hair,

He sits doubled up in

Living room chair.

His physical, mental

Attitudes are

Such that will certainly

His manhood mar.

He's reading Dick Turpin.

Of long ago day,

And this is that which makes

Mothers get gray.

—W. B. McCafferty.

—:o:—

Brother Smeltzer writes: My recent Dime Novel article in Hadley's "Swapper" Monthly, of Lowry City, Mo. points out the fact that there exists a flourishing Dime Novel Brotherhood. My advertisement in the same issue invites membership of those interested. I hope this publicity bears good fruit.

It is only by all of us shouting our hobby from the housetops, so to speak, that we can expect to forge ahead.

—:o:—

Harry Moore, writer of the Liberty Boys of '76, right name is S. A. D. Cox.



**DEWITT'S NIGHTSHADE SERIES**

By RALPH F. CUMMINGS

DeWitt's Nightshade Series is one of the most interesting 25c novels of that time, outside of his other numerous series. Robert DeWitt began their publication in New York in 1867, closely following the outward appearance of the Beadle's Novels. To some degree also, the DeWitt Novels, such as the 10c Romances dealt with the same pioneer subjects and conditions, although they were frankly fiction and not nearly so well written as the Beadle's Novels.

To come back to the Nightshade Series; it measures practically six by ten; one hundred pages of reading matter; twenty-five cents per copy. I believe number nine was the last number printed; yellow covers, nice four-color wood-cut on cover; published just sixty-six years ago at 33 Rose Street, New York City, also 13 Frankfort Street.

The first number is entitled "Nightshade, or Claude Duval the Dashing Highwayman, giving a full account of Duval's exploits on the road and his adventures at the masked ball with the beautiful duchess.

The Duval stories originated in England, being first published by E. Lloyd in 1856. There were 202 numbers (this information from No. 4 of the Collector's Miscellany referring to the Barry Ono collection).

Number one of the DeWitt "Claude Duval" Series starts off in this manner:

**Chapter 1**

**Claude Duval Rescues a Prisoner  
and Gains a Wife**

"Save me! save me! will no one save me? I am innocent of this crime which is laid to my charge. It is hard to die for that which never in thought

word or deed can cling to me in the shape of guilt. Save me! oh save me! With a wild rapidity of utterance that would not be stayed, with a shrieking vehemence which no human power could conquer, wringing her hands and dashing back from her pale, blanched face the luxuriant hair, that seemed in that moment of pain and degradation, to form a veil for the lovely face it belonged to, stood a young girl scarcely past the age of childhood; a young English maiden. Such a one as is loved and cherished and made much of; the idol of a house; the cherished jewel of every heart. A creature to speak gently to - a sunshinean angelic presence such as might lead the soul from all degrading thoughts and aspirations. A fair young English girl. She stood upon a scaffold.

She was brought out to die. To die a death at once, of horror and degradation; to be held up as a spectacle to the twice three thousand eyes bent upon her beneath the fleecy clouds and scattered blue of a fair April sky. To die by the hands of the common executioner, with a name which should be given over to execration when the light in those sweet eyes be quenched forever in the gloom of the grave.

"Save me! save me! I cannot must not die. My trial was a mockery, a delusion. I am not guilty! Help help, I cry to all! to earth, to heaven! Mercy, mercy, Is there no justice among men, or pity in heaven. I am not guilty! I am not guilty!

"Stop her mouth!" growled a ruffianly voice. "Stop her mouth, I say. This must not be, Mr. Sheriff!"

"She was given leave to speak. Yes

to make a last speech and confession — but this is defiance. Stop her mouth! "I dare not, Mr. Massy Pendell, I dare not! Look at the people. Did you ever see such faces in your life? Look at their eyes. I told you how it would be. There now! there now!"

A roaring cry came from a thousand throats. That was the cry that had been evoked from all those hearts by the shrieking appeal of the young girl; that young girl brought out to die. Oh, what a mockery was the April sunshine as it mingled its golden hues with her fair hair. The scene was old Bloomsbury Fields.

(Note)

Perhaps I've gone far enough. I would have to cover a couple more pages to reach the point where the girl Lucy Overton was rescued by the daring Claude Duval. I think you'll agree with me that it is a hummer of a story right from the start.

Quite a few of the old English bloods were published by DeWitt, such as:

Nightshade Series

Claude Duval Series, 25c

Handsome Jack " 25c

Jonathan Wild " 25c

Red Wolf " 25c

Black Bess " 25c

Twenty-five Cent Novels

Stories of the Sea

A cut from DeWitt's Nightshade Series No. 1 adorns the cover page of this issue. Most of the Claude Duval stories were written by Charlton Lee and Stephen H. Agnew. Mr. DeWitt published many other books such as song books, joke books, dramas, etc.

It was his aim to have his Ten Cent Romances resemble as closely as possible the Beadle's Dimes (yellow-

backs). He issued them in the same tint of orange paper, but had a design of ten copper cents at the top of the cover above the picture instead of the cut of the dime which appeared on many of the Beadle's. Issued once a month, the titles indicate tales of Western life and frontier adventure, such as Wild Bill, The Indian Slayer, Wild Bill's First Trail Adelaide, the Avenger, War Eagle, or Ossinawa the Indian Brave, The Outlaw Bride, the Onondaga Giant, The Texan Ranger, Sol Anderson etc.

Here are the whole nine titles of the DeWitt Nightshade Series;

No. 1, Nightshade, or Claude Duval the Dashing Highwayman.

2. Nightshade on the Heath, or Claude Duval and the King.

3. Claude and the Countess, or Nightshade near Newgate.

4. Hounslow Jack, or Duval and the Dark Lantern.

5. Claude in the Cathedral, or A Night in the Vaults.

6. The Girl of the Gibbet, or Claude Saves the Captive.

7. The Highwayman's Doom, or The Road and Its Riders.

8. The Fatal Tree, or The Gibbet Bears Fruit.

9. The Last Leap, or The Reward of Crime.

This series of Highwayman books will be found to be by far the most attractive of any given to the public at that time. They were written with a virile pen, guided by a master brain having at his fingertips all phases of that strange fearless class of men of those bygone days, the Knights of the Road. Not only does this series paint with amazing fidelity and ability the feats of the most dashing, reckless, rough-riding highwayman that any time or place has produced.



but it mingles with the telling of thrilling road adventures, an ever-present vein of love romance of unequalled excellence, surpassing all other mere novels penned by other writers.

Finally, to those not familiar with the fact, it will be of interest to you to know that "Nightshade" was Claude Duval's faithful horse. Do you recall the name of Jesse James favorite steed? I'll refresh your memory: Good old "Siroc", the black as night steed. And so, my friends,

Adieu.

—:o:—

Alice Cary, one of the New York Ledgers best poets, died way back in the Spring of 1871.

Alice started to write her first poetry in 1850. Since then she has written many poems that were published in the New York Ledger. Some of her poems were; Work, Contradictory. Prayer for Light, A dream of the West, My Plea, Grapes of Thorns, and others.

A note on Alice Cary's life was written by Horace Greeley in Vol. 27 No. 3, March 11th, 1871.

—:o:—

Phoebe Cary, a sister to Alice died early in the fall of 1871. Six months after Alice. Both sisters loved each other dearly.

Alice was one of the sweetest singers in the country. Notice of Phoebe's death in August 26, 1871. Both sisters were writers of poetry in the N. Y. Ledger, of hundreds of poems,

—:o:—

Paul Clifford, or Hurrah for the Road appeared in TALES OF CELEBRATED HIGHWAYMAN. Early 60's

Delaware Dick, or the Chase of the Wasp. appeared in DeWITT'S STORIES Of The SEA, No. 12 early 60s

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Once A Week Library; No. 6, Vol. 9, E 10c.

Seaside Pocket Library; 801 E 15c.

Boys Best Pocket; 30 F 10c

Beadle's Dime Library (London ed.) 120 F 65c.

Beadle's 20c Novels; 7, 12, 26, 32 E \$2.00 each.

Beadle's Dime Novels; 123E \$2.: 179, 230, 250, 280, 297, 300F \$1.50 ea. 257T, 262, \$1.00 each.

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293F \$1.50; 58, 201, 321 P \$1 each.

DeWitt's 10c Romances; 7, 22, 27, 33, 43, 46, 55, 60, 65, 67, 75, 84, 91 E  
\$2 ea.: 17, 18, 64, 95, 103, F \$1.50 ea.: 32, 34, 51, P \$1 each.

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**MUNRO** - Old Sleuth - Old Cap Collier - Ten Cent Indian Novels - Ornum Novels - Claude Duvals - etc.

And many others such as American Indian, Boys Best, Boys Home, Campfire, Dick Dobbs, Gem, N. Y. Boys Library, Old Sleuth Weekly, Western, Ivers Frontieers, etc. — from the common to the most rare.

**Send in your name and address, get our latest lists, and get on our mailing list to receive interesting offers for 1934.**

**Keep your want lists on file with us, and receive first choice of new material which is constantly coming in here.**

**Happy New Year to all our Friends. To others, ditto.**

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